

THE  
SUBSTANCE  
OF A  
LETTER

Sent to the  
MAGISTRATES  
OF  
COLCHESTER.

OR, A *Furly (180)*  
Hue and Cry

SENT AFTER  
A Ridiculous and Scandelous Paper, put  
forth by a cheating, wicked, and deceitful  
Woman, that subscribes her self SARAH HAYWARD  
and is there in Prison, being apprehended, examined,  
and committed the 23. of the 2d. Month 1666. being  
then found in divers lies and contradictions upon her  
Examination.

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Given forth for the clearing of the Innocency of  
the People called QUAKERS.

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Printed in the third Month, 1666.

To the Magistrates of the Town  
of Colchester.



FRIENDS,

**A**S to the scandalous Paper put forth by that wicked, lewd, lying Woman, who by our means is detected for her wickedness, and is now your Prisoner : we say we know little of it to be true, nor doth it at all reach us, for we have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but do rather reprove them, and we are as desirous the wickedness and rottenness of others that have gone under the disguise of *Quakers*, should be made manifest, detected and discovered as hers. But we desire also you would not very readily yield and prostrate your belief to one that hath so egregiously forfeited her credit and reputation with you, by being found before you in so many notorious lies and falsehoods, especially when her accusation of others is but to excuse her self, and to extenuate her own vileness, and to divert you from further searching and prying into her miscarriages ; and also the persons whom she so accuses are at a distance from her and not here to speak for themselves, and all of them except two or three as well unknown to us as to your selves. But had she known such evils by them it had been far more honest and honourable for her (before her apprehension, and then it would not have favoured of revenge and malice) to have declared those things to the Nation, to have made the guilty manifest, rather than to have gone about deluding and cheating of simple people, or so to have caused the

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way of truth and righteouſneſs to have been the more reproached, by her evil practices and leud Converſation; and if any that have paſſed under the name of *Quakers* have ſaln from the power of truth which ſhould have preſerved them from ſin and evil, or others profeſſed a name with us only in deceit and hypocriſie, yet was that no ground or warrant for her to run into evil alſo; we deſire ſhe may receive a juſt recompence of reward for the wickedneſs ſhe is found guilty of, and we doubt not but the ſame hand of juſtice hath or will find out others, to puniſh them for their faults alſo, (if any ſuch hath been) in the ſeveral places of their abodes. As for our parts we can truly ſay our attaching of her was not the effect of any paſſion or enmity we had to her perſon, but to her leud wicked practices, which we have heard of for above three

\* As in many places borrowing Money, and pretending ſhe would bring it or ſend it again in a few days but never did. And ſometimes pretending to leave Gold in pawn, and inſtead of Gold pieces would leave Shillings ſealed up, telling people there was ſo many pieces of Gold. And ſometimes borrowing Scarves, Hoods, Riding Cloaths, promiſing to leave them at ſome remarkable Friends houſe, and did not. And much more ſuch wicked and ungodly actions too tedious to relate.

years paſt. \* Such as ſhe is hath cauſed the way of truth and righteouſneſs to be evil ſpoken of, and the name of God to be blaſphemed, whole condemnation ſlumbers not, whole latter end is worſe then their beginning, and for whom it had been better they had never been born. And yet if ye conſult with Scripture ye will in all

ages and generations find there hath been ſuch as hath turned from the way of Righteouſneſs into crooked and by paths; for in *Abrahams* Family, there was an *Iſmael* as well as an *Iſaac*; in *Iſaac's* Family an *Eſau* as well as a *Jacob*; among the Twelve a *Judas*; in the Church of *Philadelphia* thoſe that ſaid they were *Jewes*, and were not,

but did lie, and were of the Synagogue of Satan; and in the Church of *Corinth* an *incestuous person*, and in several other Churches of the Gentiles, those that drew back unto perdition, that went out from them being not truly of them, for had they been of them they would have continu'd with them as the Apostle testifies; But, supposing the matter to be true, which we believe is much of it lies and falshood, if twenty persons or more in 16. years experience have turned aside and drawn back unto perdition, in whose soul the Lord will take no pleasure. As that is no new or strange thing, so it shall not afright or deter us from walking in the way of truth and righteousness, in which we have found peace and satisfaction to our soules; but rather invite and excite us to walk the more accurate and circumspectly, and to make straight steps to our feet, least any among us also fall into the same snare of the Devil, and that was the use the Apostles made of the Apostacy and backsliding of some in former ages, *Let us take heed lest there be in any of us an evil heart of unbelief, &c. And labour to enter into that rest least others falling after the same example of unbelief come short of it, Heb. 4. 11.* And although we have affirmed and do still affirm, that the light with which every man is enlightened with, being believed in, obeyed, followed, is sufficient to save, and doth lead to the light of life, yet we never did nor do we at this day affirm, that it saves or preserves any from sin and evil further then they are led and taught by it, and are obedient to it; for to those that rebell against it the light is their daily condemnation, it's the favour of death unto such; and as *Job* speaking of the *Twilight* to the thief or murderer is as the shadow of death unto them; for although the Grace of God which brings Salvation which hath appeared unto all men, teaches to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, yet they

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are not obedient to it, but receive it in vain, *that turns the Grace of God into lasciviousness.* And as to her accusations we say in general, they touch us not, we challenge the worst of our adversaries to declare and make manifest what evil they have found by us, and we hope through Grace to make it manifest to all men that we are not of those that draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul, and we also hope through the same Grace to *hold fast our profession without wavering,* and to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men which watch for our halting by our good Conversation.

And whereas she challenges us to accuse her if we can of any incivility she acted among us while she walked with us, we answer, had she lived in the truth unto this day, which she saith she once lived in, (though we have none but her own words for it) there had been no cause for the several accusations which are brought against her at this day, and many more will be brought against her as she well knowes, which is the true reason why she conceales her right name and hath passed under several names, and also the place of her abode, which we desire she may be detained until she doth reveal, and also till a testimonial do come from the said place, that her report therein is true, (being she hath told you that her dwelling house is against the white Lyon in Southwark, and it hath not been found so) and this we hope you will judge reasonable, and so let it be manifest, you are a *terror to evil works and workers* and *bear not the sword in vain.* And whereas she saith she once walked innocently and unblameable, we answer, we know not that, but were it so — that will no more excuse her, then it will excuse the fallen Angels, of whom *Jude* speaks, who keeping not their first estate, but lost their pristine habitation, and are now reserved in everlasting

ing Chains under Darknes, unto the judgment of the great Day, for it is not what we were Yeares or Weekes past, or what we formerly could witness of the Lords presence and preservation; but what we can witness the Lord is to us, and what he is in us to day, that must speak us peace and satisfaction: So in that which sets Truth a top of all deceit and deceivers. We rest your Friends.

Colchester, 4th. of the  
3d. Moneth, called  
May, 1666.

Jo. Furly, Junior.  
George Wetherly.  
Daniel Deacon.  
Solomon Farmely.  
John Pike.  
Nicholas Prigg.

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P O S T S C R I P T.

**S**INCE the giving forth of the said scandalous Paper, it hath been received by some honest and faithful Men of divers Counties; whose Testimony concerning Her Paper is as followeth: That many things therein contained are notoriously false, as if need require may be made appear, divers honest and faithful Men and Women being by her accused whose innocency is apparent in the Country where they live, and those things that have an appearance of Truth we need not to deny, having denyed the Persons by whom such things were acted long ago, many of them long before those abominations were acted by them, and though divers have turned from the way of Truth, and others have taken up the profession of it for a Cloak of their ungodliness, and thereby to accomplish their own ends and designes as she hath done, who are no more

more to us then she is : yet this will not render the way of Truth odious to wise and sober Men, nor be sufficient cause for any to judge the worse of those who according to the Principles of truth do hold their integrity, and keep faith and a good Conscience; so as none have cause to be elevated, or glory over us who are innocent, or to villify the way of truth owned by us, either from her slanders against some, or pollutions of others, who are denied by the innocent People called *Quakers*, neither would the Magistrates or People of *England*, be dealt so by, or generally accused, because of the scandalous lives and enormities of many of their Priests and members, which would fill Volumes to repeat; And therefore considering how deceitfull and false this said Woman hath appeared, and is like further to be manifested by her cheats and falsehoods, which through most Counties of this Nation she hath acted, we hope that the Magistrates of *Colchester* will appear more ingenious, and more prize their own reputation, then either give credit or way to her revilings, or have a hand in the divulging of them; for that if her Paper should be further divulged in the Nation, divers innocent Persons therein slandered and calumniated with others that know their innocency will be necessitated to testify against her; her Paper and the abettors and promoters of it: so we wish all to be moderate and ingenious in such causes; and for as much as she hath been much talked of through the Nation, of many pranks and deceiving tricks acted by her in Corners and By-places among simple people; for the prevention of the like for the future, let all take notice of the Description of her Person, as followeth.



A tall woman somewhat long vizaged, freckled face, pock-broken and red hair, and flaxen coloured browes, a pretty full eye, and very confident, impudent and subtil; but as for name or place of abode, she hath gone by so many, as *Sarah, Mary, Susanna, &c.* sometimes *Brierley Cole, Whishead, Travers, Hall, Robinson, Wilson, &c.* sometimes of *Bristol, London, Stratford, Southwark, Chelmsford, Ipswich, Whitby, Newcastle, &c.* that it is in vain to mention any, or describe her by any one, one more then another, her certain Name and Country being yet unknown, even to the Magistrates themselves.

**THE END.**



